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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 09/929,326 | TAMAYAMA, RYUZO | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Devona E. Faulk | 2615 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/19/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-16.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. The applicant's RCE and amendment filed 7/19/2006 has been entered.
2. Applicant's arguments, filed 7/19/2006, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 2,3 under 103 (a), regarding the amended claim language of claims 2 and have been fully considered and are persuasive.
3. The applicant has amended claims 2 to overcome a 112 rejection. Claim 3 indicated as allowable in the previous office action. The applicant has written claim 3 in independent form. Claims 2 and 3 are allowable.
4. Claim 1 is cancelled.

Reasons For Allowance

5. Claims 2-16 are allowed.
6. Regarding claims 2 and 3, prior art The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding **claim 2**, the applicant's admitted prior art (Figures 6A,6B) discloses a multichannel acoustic signal reproducing apparatus comprising at least: portable housing (3, Figure 6B; portable is defined as capable of being moved); left and right speakers separately attached to the portable housing (Figures 6A, 6B); recording and reproducing means arranged in the portable housing capable of recording and reproducing a recording medium (10, Figure 6B); surround decoding means arranged in

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the portable housing for decoding a multi-channel acoustic signal from the recording and reproducing means to produce surround phonic sound (14, Figure 6B); control means for controlling the recording and reproducing means, the surround decoding means (Figure 6B, page 1, line 24-page 2, line 3). Gefvert discloses a multi-channel sound reproduction system having a center speaker arranged in a housing with a left and right speaker. Iwamura discloses that a television can have a speaker or speakers located internally or external to the television. Watanabe discloses a multichannel AV amplifier (Figures 1 and 2) with a first switching means (S11, S1, S3, S4, S12, S6, S8) and a second switching means (S9) having many arrangements (Figure 4). It indicates that a center, left and right channel ((S3, S4, S12) can be on at the same time as the surround speaker (S9). Watanabe further teaches of a mode selector (104) and channel selector (105) that control the first and second switching means (column 5, lines 12-17). Hirota teaches of a portable housing having a grip (13, 14; column 2, lines 19-23). Prior art Ishikawa (US 4,933,768) discloses a sound reproducer. Prior art Harrison (US 5,386,473) discloses passive surround sound circuit. Prior art Shiraki (US 5,197,100) discloses an audio circuit for a television receiver with central speaker producing only human voice sound. Regarding claim 2, the prior art or combination thereof fails to disclose or make obvious a second switching means arranged in a portable housing for reproducing a first predetermined number of channels of the multichannel acoustic signal from the surround decoding means through the center speaker and the left and right speakers, and first switching means for switching and outputting remaining channels of the multichannel acoustic signal from the surround

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decoding means and that channels signals of the remaining channels of the first switching means are supplied to a television receiver having speakers and capable of reproducing the channel signals as surround phonic sound in conjunction with left, right and center speakers of the portable housing, in which the television receiver is arranged in a housing separate from the portable housing. Regarding claim 3, the prior art or combination thereof fails to disclose or make obvious a second switching means arranged in a portable housing for reproducing a first predetermined number of channels of the multichannel acoustic signal from the surround decoding means through the center speaker and the left and right speakers, and first switching means for switching and outputting remaining channels of the multichannel acoustic signal from the surround decoding means and that the channels signals from the first switching means are fed to the television receiver by a single cable and the left and right and center speakers of the portable housing are used as rear speakers located behind the user.

Therefore the prior art or combination thereof fails to disclose or make obvious a multichannel acoustic signal reproducing apparatus as claimed.

Claims 4-16 are allowed due to dependency on claims 2 and 3.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Devona E. Faulk whose telephone number is 571-272-7515. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 am - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivian Chin can be reached on 571-272-7848.

The Art Unit location of your application in the USPTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Art Unit 2615. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

DEF


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